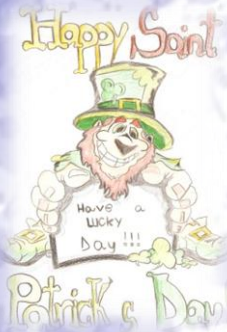


Issue 1, Year 1, 2013



*"Love all, trust a few,  
do wrong to none"*



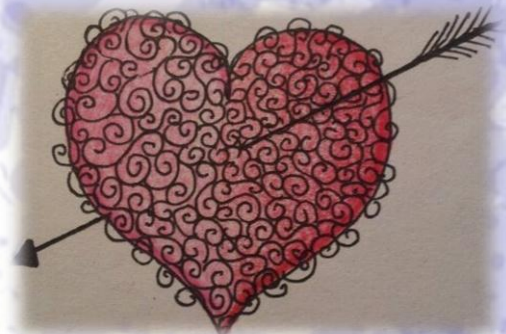
*The shadow of a dream*



*My dear Valentine*



*Can computers replace teachers  
in the classroom?*



*"Gheorghe Șincai" National College, Baia Mare  
EDITURA "MARIA MONTESSORI"*



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Coordinator:  
Prof. Rodica Szentes

**The Editorial Staff :**

- **Pop Laura**
- **Emil Kasa, 11 E**
- **Raluca Fărcaș, 10 A**



## *EDITORIAL*

Do you feel that freedom of expression seems to be taken for granted lately? Despite or maybe due to the many opportunities offered by today's highly technologised means of communication, people appear to have forgotten that they can say and write whatever they've got on their minds regarding controversial issues and prefer to dwell in commonplace clichés and mundane gossip.

It could be that it is less intellectually demanding to memorize and repeat someone else's idea(s) than to have an informed opinion, to rummage through the tangle of available information and find the most accurate, genuine, rigorous pieces that would offer information closest to truth in order to have a valid starting point for building an opinion of one's own. Such intellectual laziness has never been the trademark of Sincal's students.

Having read thousands of opinion essays, reviews, reports, proposals, and other types of writing required in internationally acknowledged linguistic certificates, we have found some remarkable ideas and points of view expressed by our students. Thus we thought it would be a good idea to provide such ingenious, creative students, an appropriate place to make their ideas, opinions, dreams, and talents known and cultivate them by practice.

Therefore, in this first issue of our Teenglish, Șincal's English Magazine for Teenagers, you can read an interview with our principal, Ms Carmen Anton, taken by Oana Rob and Nelda Mialțu of 9A, a few articles about our department's important events and activities, an article on volunteering by Ciolte Iulia of XA, essays and poems by our most creative Ioana Gherghel, Marius Palfi, Ștefania Lucaci, Corina Vele, all from 10E, Bianca Mureșan and Raul Cionca of 11A, Narcis Pârvan, Madalina Bancoș, Bianca Buie and Timea Nagy of 10F. The issue concludes with a word from three of last year's graduates: Andreea Buruian, Laura Dochița and Cristina Ionescu.

Enjoy this first issue of Teenglish and contact us if you believe in free speech **and you** have something significant and intriguing for the next issues.

Laura Pop

Rodica Szentes

## *The Interview Corner*



By Nelda Mialțu & Oana Rob, IX A

### ***1. How do you feel being the principal of Gheorghe Sincai National College?***



I think I am in a very interesting position and being a principal is a very important experience for a teacher. I feel like I have a lot to learn and I have already learnt a lot until now. I do my best to make things work well, to understand my colleagues and the students and I try to maintain the tradition of performance and high quality and everything that Sincai stands for.

### ***2. We all know that in every job there are difficulties. Which are the most difficult problems you have had?***

Difficult problems? ... When you work with people there are always difficult problems, no matter if they are teenagers or adults. But if you try to be balanced and to listen to everyone's opinion and then make a decision, even the most difficult problem turns into a less difficult one.

### ***3. Talking about difficulties and successes, what are your greatest successes since you've been this school's principal?***

It's a little bit complicated to see the successes from this position. If when you are teaching you can see your achievements sooner, as a principal, it is more difficult to see them. But I think that the fact that this school is preserving its tradition and more and more students are coming to this school and you can see content parents is a good sign, because it means that we, the board, are doing our jobs properly. But after just one year, you can't say that you have great achievements. Maybe the fact that everything is normal, the results are as good as always, and we have 78 children registered for the fifth grade (more than last year), these are signs that we are doing our jobs properly.

### ***4. Due to the fact that you have a very busy schedule, do you still have time for your social and family life?***

For my family, yes. I definitely have time. For my social life, less than before. Now, I try to dedicate my time to my career and my family because I have a little baby at home and my free time is dedicated to him.

### ***5. How do you think that modern technology is affecting the process of learning?***

I think modern technology affects the process of learning and has a big impact on education. But the students and the teachers have to find the middle way. I mean that a teacher can't simply say "From now on I'll only use teaching methods based on technology and everything will be great", or : "From now on I'll only use traditional teaching methods and I'll be successful". But I do believe in a blending of the two approaches. A complete or successful teacher has to know how to mix them. If we now have technology, we have to use it but not to abuse it.



**6. *Were there moments when the gadgets interfered with the school life?***

Yes. I mean there weren't particular moments, but definitely the teachers should adapt and be careful with the gadgets the students make use of. I'll give you an example of how smartphones can be used in class. During a class, a student asked me, when I mentioned the word "stivă" what it meant. I was a little bit confused because I didn't have an explanation in my mind for the word, at that moment. And it didn't cross my mind to tell them to access an online dictionary on the **internet** from their smartphones and find what the word "stivă" means. For the future I consider it a good idea of how we can use these gadgets in class, which the students have and we can't ban them from school, because it wouldn't be fair, but we can include them in their activities.

**7. *Don't you think that there should be more activities with the students, activities in which students from different classes and different ages could be involved, because in this way they would get to know each other and socialize more?***

There are such activities, but most of them are per class. I agree with the fact that there should be organised more activities, but we, as teachers, are waiting for the students' proposals. During the last teachers' meeting I asked my colleagues to think if we could implement, in the next school year, or the one after it, a programme called "school after school". In this programme, the activities can vary from training for the exams, simply studying to recovery classes. But this doesn't mean that you, the students, can't **come with** your own ideas about this.

**8. *Do you want to send a message to the students of this college?***

Firstly, they should be very proud that they are studying here, they have to think about this: at one moment in their lives they passed an entrance examination in order to study here, and it's their merit. But, for the following 4 years they have to prove they deserve to be here, and on the next stage they have to prove that they are the best and deserve to be in the best universities in this world. They are to know that the school is doing everything to help them and to offer them opportunities to the best directions. I think that if you graduate **from** Sincai, you have the possibility to choose any job in any domain you want.



## *Public Speaking 2013*

By Alida Velea

The English Speaking Union-Romania has been challenging many students for more than 18 years now to hold public speaking competitions in English so that they can get a message across and establish credibility, no matter the topic. The main objective of this special contest is to encourage speakers, whose native language is not English, to inform on a certain topic, to persuade, and above all, to inspire.

Undoubtedly, the yearly topics proposed for the Public Speaking Competition do try to raise awareness about what's going on in the modern world we live in. For some years now those students who have found the topics challenging have done their best to participate in the event, as well as to give food for thought to the young audiences while delivering their speeches.

The theme for 2013 competition "A House divided against itself cannot stand" stirred some of our students' interest **and made** them the chance to get their messages across and establish credibility while delivering their fascinating and thought-provoking speeches. Who were the winners out of the 12 speakers? All of them were. In fact, everybody attending the competition was, students and teachers alike.

Which were the gains? We'd better let some of our students share with you their impressions about this activity of our English Department:

"Earlier this year I participated in my first Public Speaking Contest. Honestly, it was an experience that opened my eyes regarding the importance of speaking abilities in an ever-growing English speaking world! What I liked most about the contest was the applicability of the chosen theme to a vast array of domains in life. The theme in itself sounded quite interesting, because it approached the unity theme which is very important these days." (Lauran Alexandru 11th grade)

"I believe that if we give a close attention to such activities, more students will be encouraged to join us enthusiastically in our future speaking competitions." (Neamt Cezara 10<sup>th</sup> grade)

"We have the chance to prove that we are good at whatever we are doing, and I think this is one of the most interesting and challenging competitions." (Naghy Andrei, 12<sup>th</sup> grade, the time-keeper)

Join us and benefit from the experience!

*We will always remember you, Alida, with love and respect.*



## *Do we need Valentine's Day? I'll leave it up to you*

By Laura Pop

Valentine's Day is a day of love and romance for some, a day of bitter desperation for others, and even a day of chocolate and cards for many others. But every year, when Valentine's Day comes around, people begin to act according to its significance, everybody in their own style. Some become more romantic, others realise how deeply in love they are. A few have the luck to actually fall in love on this special day or evening, yet others risk falling out of love because they didn't live up to their lover's expectations.

What this particular day meant for our college this year was an invitation to a contest, a challenge for our students to wear their hearts on the sleeve and send us love letters, poems, photos and videoclips, on the false pretence of being sent to their loved one or to their favourite character. The English department launched a special contest for the most sensitive and creative students of this college. Your response impressed us deeply. Although the judging was difficult, the reading of your materials was a real pleasure, as we could feel your hearts pounding, your innermost feelings of love and despair, hope and romance. We could read some of the most heartbreaking, heart-warming and romantic letters and poems, and look at your videoclips and photos, sent by students from various classes: Anda Szasz, Vlad Țânța, Adriana Ofrim, Ariana Ciociu, Daiana Pînja, Dănuț Ardelean (of 11E), Denisa Jurje, Raul Rațiu, Iulia Nicole Voicu (of 9F), Narcis Pârvan, Mădălina Bancoș, Bianca Buie, Timea Nagy (of 10F), Alexandra Popa, Dana Marchiș (of 10C), Irina Bozântan (of 11A), Ruxandra Fița (of 10A). We congratulate them all for their successful participation and passionate involvement. Their ideas and feelings have inspired us and made us think that, at the end of the day, love is all that matters, because love is the one that actually makes the world go round.

I would sum up love like this: Falling in love is like getting hit by a large truck and yet not being mortally wounded. Just sick to your stomach, high one minute, low the next. Starving hungry but unable to eat. Hot, cold, full of hope and enthusiasm, with momentary depressions that wipe you out. It is also not being able to remove the smile from your face, loving life with a mad, passionate intensity, and feeling 10 years younger. Love is special. Love is an all-year-round thing. So, do we need Valentine's Day? I'll leave it up to you.





## “Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none”

By Rodica Szentes

Does it sound like a sample of **internet** wisdom? Well, had the author lived today, he would definitely have an awesome Facebook page and thousands of followers on any social network. I, for one, am never bored of reading his work, seeing and reseeing any number of theatre pieces, films, and TV versions of his plays ever produced. Love, power, social conformity, death, freedom, racism, murder, corruption, revenge, madness, ambition, nature, fate, converge and wed within the work of the most celebrated writer of all times. An anthology of human emotion and experience topped by a theme as current and crucial as personal identity which was being shaped and defined at the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century is Shakespeare's (I'm sure you have guessed by now) world. His avant-garde and ambivalent attitude has greatly contributed to and influenced the mindset of his time finding a twin resonance in today's social ethos.

In my mind April has always been linked to Shakespeare's days. That's why, last school year I suggested to my eleventh graders that we watch three films: *Anonymous*, released during the previous year, Al Pacino's brilliant *Looking For Richard* and the heartwarming romantic *Shakespeare in Love*. After having watched and discussed such contrasting views on the same topic - the life and work of William Shakespeare - several titles for research have been put forward such as: The Globe - Past and Present, Elisabeth I - Queen Gloriana, Religious Life in Shakespeare's Time, Other Writers of the Time (Marlowe, Ben Jonson, John Webster), Being a Woman in 16<sup>th</sup> c. England, The Relevance of Shakespeare's Work Today, or Historical Characters in Shakespeare's Plays. Each student chose one or came up with his or her own topic and after a one week research presented the class the result of their work. The work was evaluated and rewarded with a grade. Having considered this project a success I repeated it this year with my 11<sup>th</sup> graders and I hope they have enjoyed it as much as I have. This year's assignment was part of a larger event which included several activities such as: raising awareness about Shakespeare's work by wearing paper badges made by Ms Laura Pop, a poem recital coordinated by Ms Alida Velea, and the creation of a poster containing the students' works on Shakespeare.

A few of this year's 12<sup>th</sup> graders have based their "Atestat" paper on last year's project and here are the words of one of them to temporarily bring down curtain on this topic: "I have chosen this subject for my thesis because William Shakespeare had an important influence on the world drama's development, but also because he wrote about things that never get old: love, history, friendship. Since I read *Romeo and Juliet* and discovered *Hamlet*, I have realized that learning Shakespeare is essential in order to understand that writing a play, a poem, a sonnet, means proving that humans are the ones that change, not their emotions or dilemmas, not humanity itself." (Hanna Dragoș, XIIF)

So until next April when we meet again, remember to "Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none" and, yes, you may write this on your Facebook wall.





## *St. Patrick's Day in Sincai*

By Roxana Petrovan

St Patrick's Day, celebrated on 17 March is one of the most important cultural and religious holidays in the English speaking world. It is named after Saint Patrick (c. AD 385–461), the most commonly recognized of the patron saints of Ireland. Saint Patrick's Day is a public holiday in the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Newfoundland and Labrador and Montserrat. It is also widely celebrated by the Irish diaspora around the world; especially in Britain, Canada, the United States, Argentina, Australia and New Zealand.

The traditions on this day are various starting with wearing green clothes to different types of dishes being cooked on that day, and, more modern, sports events. Literary texts are also known to focus on this specific holiday.

Teachers and students at "Gheorghe Sincai" National College decided to join this worldwide celebrations, by presenting one of the traditional Irish fairytales, called "Tom the Princess Who Could not Laugh". The students from the 10<sup>th</sup> grade E, coordinated by teacher Roxana Petrovan, have succeeded in bringing to life a piece of Irish culture, in a humorous way. Fantastic creatures like talking wolves or giants protruded our reality for about half an hour and allowed us to catch a glimpse of this fantastic cultural movement.



## *Let's Put a Face to English!*

by Laura Pop

In the light of the recent events that took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May,

“Gheorghe Șincai” National College has proven once more that they deserve to be called “the best college in the county” or simply “number one”.

What exactly happened then? The international contest “Let's



Put a Face to English!” was organised by The American International School of Transylvania. The 7 teams of high



school students demonstrated how much English they know. The aim of the contest was to raise awareness to the fact that English is not merely a subject that students study in school but a living language. The event tested the participants' knowledge regarding some of the countries where English is the official language

(Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Great Britain, the United States of America - California, Tennessee, Texas). The international members of the jury, originating from the states which entered the competition, offered the participants their support in a special meeting prior to the contest itself.

The teams entering the competition came from the following colleges: “George Baritiu” Technical College (representing Tennessee, USA), “Aurel Vlaicu” Technical College (representing Australia), “Emil Racovita” Theoretical High School (representing Texas, USA), “I.I.de la Brad” Agricultural Technological High School, Seini (representing Great Britain). There were 2 teams of Șincai students. Team 1 was made of: Cionca Tudor, Roșca Andrada, Alexandra Bozântan and Cristian Tohătan (of 9D), Babiciu Sorina and Cionca Raul (of 11A), coordinated by their teachers Roxana Petrovan and Rodica Szenteș. Team 2 was made entirely of students from 10E: Ardelean Dana, Ciolte Iulia Patricia, Gherghel Ioana, Danci Diana, Heredea Oana, Hofer Ana, Hotya Andrei, coordinated by their teachers Laura Pop and Roxana Petrovan.

There were four sections in the contest: *English Language* (Participants had to prove they recognize peculiarities of accent and specific linguistic elements of the English spoken in the areas that were represented in the competition); *Creativity* (Participants had to prepare an artistic moment relevant for the states they chose and represent them in the competition); *Culture And Civilization* (Participants were challenged to recognize elements of culture and civilization - symbols, history, geography, literature, and art - specific to each state); *Lifestyle* (Participants had to prove knowledge of stereotypes and lifestyle - transportation, food, clothing, sports).

The whole contest was extremely enjoyable; the competitors were energetic, quick-witted and put on stage quite original performances during their artistic moments. They declared themselves delighted with the whole concept of the contest. They said it was a great opportunity to put into practice their knowledge about the English-speaking world. Needless to say that their efforts were rewarded with diplomas, applause and some traditional delicacies made by the members of the jury themselves, who became ambassadors of their countries of origin.

Let's give our winning teams a big round of applause for their performance and for making us proud of being “șincaiști”!

# National Volunteering Week

By Iulia Patricia Ciolte, X E



From 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> of May the National Volunteering Week was celebrated in Romania. This special week was celebrated in Baia Mare by **Team for Youth**, a volunteering association, which organizes a lot of activities.



Team for Youth Association inaugurated this week their volunteering center, where youths who wish to know more about being a volunteer can go to find more information about this. Also there was a Volunteering Fair where different clubs and associations like Team for Youth Association, American International School of Transylvania and Deis Association presented their offers. T4UTH also organized workshops and TEDx movie nights.

*Team for Youth Association* is a non-governmental and unconventional cultural organization which develops projects at a local, national and international level. It was born in October 2009, in Baia Mare, as a local youth initiative with the purpose of bringing youth closer to non-formal education. The activities proposed by the organization promote volunteering, active citizenship, cooperation between youngsters and use, mainly, methods of non-formal education.

If you want to be a volunteer or to find out more about T4UTH, you can visit them at their centre which is on Vasile Lucaciu street, nr. 55A in Baia Mare or phone them at 004 0262 21 41 21.



## *The Creativity Corner*



### *The Golden Path*

By Ioana Gherghel, X E

It is believed that a true friend is someone with whom you can share complete trust or at least it is supposed to be this way. God taught us to do nothing in selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility, considering the others' needs, too. By valuing them above our own person, we'll be on our way to loving like He did. Yes, having friends with whom you can share your time is a need, but in a society like ours, dominated by deceitfulness and falsity is really hard to find because people are blinded by their self-interest. Many will say they are loyal friends, but who can find someone who is truly reliable? Let me put it this way: can we find in this society, dominated by this selfishness, a true friend?

In this unfriendly society affected by hypocrisy, craftiness, mistrust, lies, and insincerity, it's good to have God as our friend. He will show us the way and send us people with whom we can share our interests and beliefs, called friends. But what does it mean to have a friendship with God? It means to have that kind of wisdom at your fingertips, anytime, anywhere, everywhere, His wisdom. He will show you how to get through problems, challenges, difficulties so that they would become simple experiences. To have a friendship with God means never to be alone. With Him by our side, nothing will ever be as it was. There may be times when we lose ourselves and we forget who we really are. Especially in those moments, we use His friendship because he will lead us to answers.

I believe that at the basis of a friendship between two persons there are the conditions of doing something for someone else while expecting nothing in return. I heard once a cute comparison between water and friendship connected to the idea of friendship which has many forms and shapes. We all know that if we pour the water into a jug it takes the shape of the jug and if we pour the same water into a bowl it takes the shape of the bowl. In the same way friendships will take different shapes and sizes according to our hearts just like water does. True spiritual friendships are links full of beauty. Friendship is cultivated by: love, kindness, faith, , patience, hope, expressed by deeds and words. The fruits of friendship are particularly important: peace, joy, communion, help when needed, advice, mercy, compassion, solidarity and spiritual comfort. The Scripture gives us many lessons about friendship but also warns us to protect ourselves against fake friends.

Failing to be trustworthy with secrets can destroy a friendship in a hurry. Faithfulness and loyalty are the key to true friendship. Without them, we often feel betrayed, left out, and lonely. In true friendship, there is no backbiting, no negative thoughts, no turning away. I am one of those persons who easily attach to persons just because they SEEM sweet and warm, but trusting too



easily can lead to ruin, so we have to be more careful about putting our confidence in a mere companion...

I know how it feels when the person you trusted the most, your best friend abandons you or just becomes another person. I consider that, losing a close friend is worse than losing a lover, because friends are supposed to be always there for you. Friendship is a special kind of love that is not supposed to fade. You never expect from the person you thought you could always depend on to disappear without saying goodbye. And when they do, you feel stupid and cheated, wondering what you meant to them all along, whether you were taken for granted or just in the right place at the right time.

People are so afraid of being alone... This fear petrifies people. They usually prefer to make plans to be with people they don't like rather than spend a Saturday night alone. People say that loneliness is a negative state of mind where you are always longing for the other, never satisfied being by yourself and always looking elsewhere for fulfillment. Loneliness is a feeling we would probably come up against right after a break up or right after losing a friend who disappointed us. Friends can sometimes rise against us for various reasons.

Sometimes I would rather spend my time walking alone with my thoughts, or disconnected through writing. It's like the deeper I get into my thoughts, the better I realize that there is this kind of...peace and tranquility that I can never have while I am around others. Do not get me wrong. I adore being with my beloved ones: walking with a friend, spending a relaxing afternoon with my amazing parents, reading a book with my little cousin or cooking with my grandmother - these are also among my absolute favorite things in the world.

In solitude you will find yourself, a person you may never have thought you were. A person who is capable of so many things, you may have never thought possible. The answer always lies within you; your happiness, bliss, joy and nirvana are within you naturally. Do you feel it? All we have to do is close our eyes and open up to our heart, energy and breath.

Time alone also brings creativity - my best writing, and in fact the best of anything I've done, was created in solitude. The best art is created in solitude, for a good reason: just when we are alone, we can reach into ourselves and find truth, beauty, soul.

For a balanced life I think we should find the golden means between appreciating these two...I do not know how to call these two opposite facts: to need friends and to need solitude. I cannot put one above the other because, for example, the support in difficult times is as marvelous as facing our demons. It is so wierd to have a great fear of being alone and having a desperate need for solitude...isn't it?



## *The smartphone's impact on our generation*

By Palfi Marius, X E

In these days, everybody owns a cell-phone. You can keep touch with your friends, family, or maybe you need it for work. Using a cell-phone is the easiest way of communicating.



In the last 20 years our social life has suffered a sudden shift. The cell-phone's industry has changed radically the way we communicate in everyday life. Now we can contact our friends anywhere in the world, anytime. This movement has had a huge impact on our mentality.

In the last years this industry has taken a different turn by making some high tech cell-phones, known as "smart-phones". They allow you to browse on the Internet, store your data and use many helpful applications. They are an all-in-one device, it is a TV, a computer, phone, GPS, camera and personal assistant. Like a very tiny all-knowing friend always available in your pocket, this small device can make your life easier, but it also can make you waste a lot of precious time.

We like to do things fast, maybe this is the reason why we tend to simplify our life and our ways of communication by using e-mail messages and text messages. There are applications that tell you when you need to sleep and wake up and even applications which help you to keep in shape. Many of these applications can help you for a better organization and control of your time. But also there are applications which can only confuse us (applications like love meter or birth helper). The new 3G and 4G technologies make connections even easier, keeping you updated to all the news with a simple touch of screen, revolutionizing the business world. Nowadays the big companies give their employees smart-phones because they say that they work easier this way.

Also, the smart-phones industry has become one of the biggest businesses, every company trying to produce the best device, or the most intuitive software. These companies appear every day, and grow very fast making their place among the giant brands. But only the best survives, and this makes the smart-phone's industry the most competitive. Many other businesses developed in addition to this industry, businesses based on the people's addiction of technology and innovations. But one big disadvantage of modern innovations is the ease of gaining somebody's personal data just using the internet and malware applications. These programmes give the developer data from the devices that were installed. These kinds of programmes have become more sophisticated and much harder to detect.

The more powerful the smart-phones have become, the more careful we have to be when we use them. This is why more and more companies have developed antivirus software for this type of devices. The antivirus and antimalware programmes protect our device from any kind of malicious applications. It has recently been discovered that many of the big brand's sites are offering malware applications, which infest our smart-phones and can also be uploaded to the user's PC if we plug the device into the computer in the USB drive mode. That's why we should check all the applications and their attributes when we want to install them on our devices.

It was demonstrated that most of the people who use a smart-phone suffer from impatience. They can't focus more than 2 minutes and they get bored very easily. You can easily notice that more and more these days when you walk down the street, all you can see are people with their



head down, smart-phone in hand, oblivious of their surroundings. They occasionally glance up to make sure they are not going to crash into someone and then off they go again, head down, surfing, texting, posting as they walk, jog, run, or cycle. This is not the life we dream of, but it seems more and more teen people adopt this life style. This is generation Y, born in a world where the technology was something unknown, where if you had a cell you were seen like an alien. As we grew up, we learned how to use and live with the new technology. Now we are in a symbiosis, the smart-phone is our 207-th bone. We can't live without it, but there is a reason why. Where does this "Y" come from? The new generation is always asking, "WHY?" this is the reason why we are called "Generation Y". In other words, we are represented by our human curiosity and the desire to find answers. The smart-phones are just a method of satisfying our desire of finding answers and being always connected with our friends. This is a natural human behaviour, highlighted by the possibilities of the modern world.

Like the teenagers generation, I own a smart-phone. I use it every day to listen to music and socialize with my friends. It is a good way of finding information about school and homework. In my class we have the habit of talking on Facebook about all kinds of problems (teachers, homework, entertainment, etc.). We like to keep in touch with each other in this way, even when we are on holiday. This is the real advantage the smart-phones offer, socialization and closer relationships between people. This is why we are different from the previous generations.

But when I wake up I prefer to go to the bathroom first instead of checking my mail inbox. When I walk to school I do not text or surf the Internet. Maybe I am a little old-fashioned but I like to do things in their due time. I think this is the difference between addiction and use for a purpose. Unfortunately, this is what many people forget when they start abusing their smart-phones. The same thing holds good with social sites. What is the purpose of having 2000 friends on the social sites if you know only 50 of them? This becomes a problem when we begin to forget the goal for which we should use technology and we start to fall deeper into games and applications. Today, many children between the ages of 5 and 12 have their own smart-phone or tablet. They stay all day on the Internet and play games, wasting all their childhood in the house.

A great part of the blame belongs to the parents who - instead of encouraging their children to do sport or go outside and play - prefer to buy them smart-phones and tablets because they think it is safer for their children to stay at home. This can have a big effect on their physical and mental condition. There have already been extreme cases in which the children's addiction to smart-phones has led to hospitalization in psychiatric clinics. As a result, I strongly believe that we should be extremely careful about how much we use the modern technology and to what purposes. Modern technology should not replace the means of socialization, but only to improve them or to add a little bit of flavour to our lives.

After all, the smart-phone can be an extremely useful tool in our daily life, if we know how to use it intelligently.



## *A Symphony Through Void*

By Raul Cionca, XI A

Wandering through the vast , menacing , radiation-filled vacuum of space , travelling at breathtaking speeds , at the edge of where humanity finds itself , the fine line between the safety of our delightfully life sustaining planet and the start of what is considered to be our next stop , the cosmos , here lies our pioneering ,ultimate vessel , The International Space Station. It represents the pinnacle of human technology, the place where only the brightest and most adaptable of us can go; it is the only permanent human presence in space. At any given moment, there are atleast six amazing human beings out there, studying the queer behavior of a gravity-lacking environment.



As matter behaves differently in the depths of space, our instincts are almost surely wrong. Here , on planet Earth , we can most assuredly presume that water poured out of a glass will drip and run , everything we drop falls swiftly to the ground , even we have to use our muscle fibers in order to stand up , straight and mighty. But, given the weird nature of such a “zero-g” environment, you will most likely fail to react to the way matter behaves in it. In space, water floats in little transparent spheres; it adheres to objects by means of surface tension, not gravity. Things remain stuck in the air, as if held up by invisible string, until you nudge them just a bit and then they simply fly. Everything just floats.

Over the decades, scientists and astronauts have faced the challenges which the lack of gravity implies. They had to develop ingenious ways of coping with them. Daily routines , like washing your teeth , cutting you nails , making meals or even taking a nap , are far more difficult than you might think. We are not shown this secret life of those men of science who delve into space...Until now. Chris Hadfield, a brilliant astronaut, who became Head Chief of the I.S.S, had the extraordinary idea to film himself while accomplishing these feats of strength, thus educating the masses about life in space.

Drawing attention to what it is like to live there, he began posting these videos on YouTube, gaining hundreds of thousands of subscribers in a few months. As a last achievement before returning to Earth, he composed a song which encompasses what life on the I.S.S is, on what a grueling task is the much-needed inquiry into space. Many have dedicated their lives in order for us, humans, to know more. We all should offer our greatest respect to those whose voices sing our symphony through the void.

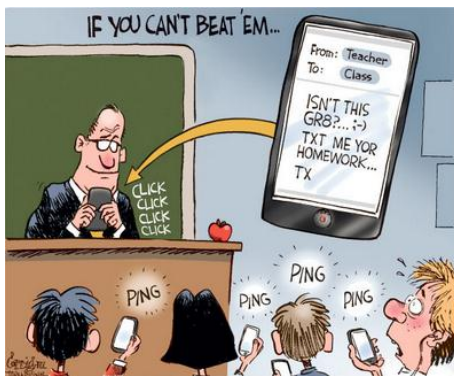




## *Can computers replace teachers in the classroom?*

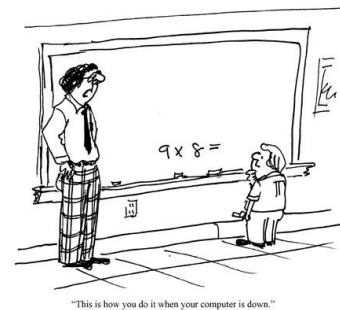
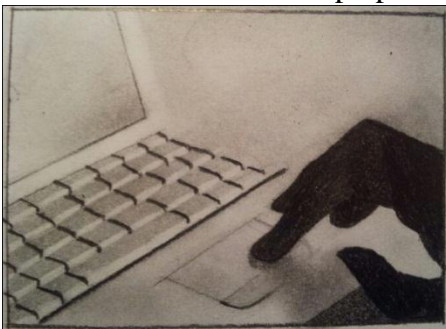
By Odăgeru Cosmina, IX A

In my opinion, teaching refers to a mix of special techniques that have the purpose of giving information. Since all the material is meant to reach the students' minds, it should obviously be presented by people, because being once students too, they know how the young deal with studying processes.



Firstly, a teacher has to be flexible enough in order to speak in a way that makes students not just understand, but also be interested and want to find out more. This way, students can discover what subject attracts them and what they would like to do in the future. A computer can offer all the information needed and maybe even more, due to its larger memory, but the way it presents it lacks any enthusiasm and can only give the impression of too much pressure.

Secondly, the teacher's job is to notice that not all students are the same, meaning they **can not** process everything at the same level. Computers can't interfere with their minds and since they don't communicate with the people standing in front of them, they aren't able to realize the differences. On the other hand, people can feel them, so human teachers have the possibility to work ahead with the smart ones and prepare them for competitions and larger projects, while helping the slow ones catch up with the rest of the class.



In conclusion, taking into account all these aspects, we can be sure that even though computers can teach by offering information required, that is not enough to replace teachers in the classroom.



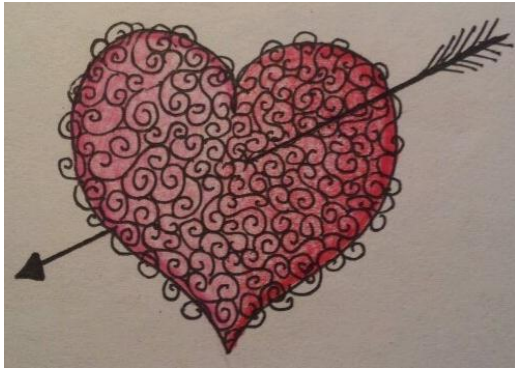
## *My dear Valentine,*

By Rus Elena, X F

*I love you.*

*I begin the story with the simplest declaration of love. But, how can I express my love? Tender, pure feelings have no need of superlatives.*

*My love for you will never end...just when a blind painter will be able to paint on the sound of fallen rose petals on a crystal table! ... but even then I still love you!*



*When we met we were in the park. You were expecting someone, I was reading a book. **It has passed a minute**, then two...then an hour. When I **got up** to leave, you gave me a note. I read it and I didn't say a word, I was unsure of what would be, and since that day we began to meet.*

*I want to thank you for being with me, for every moment spent together, for small gifts, poetry of love, for everything!*

*I heard one day a gentleman saying: "I have loved the same woman for 50 years." I thought it was cute, until he added: "Too bad she doesn't know it".*

*When I heard this, for the first time, I realized that whatever we felt, we needed to be honest with the people. And then I met you.*

*I hope that our love will be as long as the column of Brancusi, strong and hard as a rock, warm and frail like a flower and magic.*

*Just like a river flows forever, I hope that the understanding between us will last forever, too.*

*Love, ME.*





## *The Language of Love*

By Narcis Pârvan, Mădălina Bancoș, Bianca Buie, Timea Nagy – 10F

*There are moments in life when we feel a connection so deep, that words can hardly describe it. But how do we know that it's real? This is the story of a boy who meets a girl and falls in love.*

It was a day like any other, but this time boredom made me go for a walk in the park. Nothing looked interesting: everywhere kids were playing, couples hugging and old people were talking.

What was I doing among so many happy people? I was thinking about returning home, when I saw her. She was sitting alone on a bench with a magazine in her hand. She was the perfect girl. Although shy, I have decided I can't miss this opportunity to meet her. I plucked up my courage and sat down beside her. When she saw me, she smiled. I didn't know what to say so I said something about the weather, but she looked like she didn't hear me.

I was a little disappointed but I thought she wasn't paying attention so I asked what she was reading. She looked at me smiling and showed me her headphones, she can't hear me. I pulled out a piece of paper and a pencil and wrote: "What are you listening to?" She wrote back that it was a special song. I would have liked to hear it but she said that maybe some other time because she had to go. She left and I was sad because I couldn't even find out her name.

The next day I hoped to see her again, but when I got to the park she wasn't there, I **set** down on the same bench where she sat yesterday. Suddenly someone threw a little piece of paper to my arm that read: "Hello, we meet again". It was her! I couldn't believe my luck.

I noticed she started to like talking through notes and didn't want to remove the headphones so I played along. I found out we had a lot of things in common so I asked for her phone number. She didn't have one, I thought it was a little peculiar, being in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but I **settled to meeting tomorrow** as well.

The days were passing by, we met every day filling the bench with our little notes. Talking through notes was something only ours. After a week she asked if I would like to listen to her special song. I said to myself "Why not?" and put the headphones on, but couldn't hear anything.

I thought there was a problem with the headphones, but she started to show me through signs that the song was in her soul. Although she couldn't hear my voice and I couldn't understand her signs, we were speaking a common language, the language of love.

She was all I was looking for, so I wrote back: "You are still beautiful".



## *Blank infinity*

By Bianca Muresan, XI A

A new return to this ever room  
In the miracle of today's song  
And of my crepuscular space,  
Going through the numbers of loneliness...

A line of three days-  
-Reflected in the twilight of an anxious blast-,  
Has lightened the vivid colours of the town,  
Just for me, to make it sure  
That I can peacefully roam through the dark...

The pulse of my temples is bleeding in words  
That I've just put here,  
Without a moment of thinking,  
Even without being myself...

I was hoping to be the last feather  
Walking barefoot, with white steps...  
I was dreaming to forget the sign of my ego  
That shook me all this time.

Blank infinity for no regrets...  
'Cause I was trying to be strong  
In a reality that had gone...

### *If I could...*

By Bianca Muresan, XI A

I could say nothing but the truth,  
In the mirror of my soul, beneath all this smooth  
Nights of waking hours are roaming down to it,  
Forever crying, forever breaking it's cover...  
Never stop a little bit.

The screaming of the frigid flavour  
I could hear outside of that world;  
Right here, buried into me...  
The darkness is talking softly to my eyes  
As I cannot dream, either touch my wise.

Through the shadows of  
my mind,  
I could reveal my Muse,  
Frozen and sick has it become now...  
Remind me again, oh, genuine soul,  
Bring me back what I've known!  
Tiny words I scrawl walking down on  
the old ever streets  
Where my steps are leading me again,  
To the same other me...grieving my Muse,  
Into the eyes of my eternal sorrow.  
Blame me for nothing and for the nemo I am,  
Give me no reason to choose everything but  
them!  
Don't let my weak fingers destroy the essence  
Of believing and creating what I've not just said  
'Cause I need my time to find another tool  
In my little hands with no fool.  
Should I say my name again  
And escape the ghost I've let go insane?  
Wherever I will sing my thorns becoming my  
own metal guns,  
I knew we had been born of philosophy  
And in philosophy both we will die;  
And I wonder if it will still be the same for you  
and me,  
More than a sign of agony...?  
...maybe the time will survive even to put us  
together  
In the twin sides of the black infinity  
And let us be ourselves,  
Painted with the colours that are staring behind  
the door  
Where the fabulous macabre meets the autumnal  
wondrous,  
Where the wings dance in the sin of the rain...  
There I will start to be one with me,  
Forgetting how to be forever lost...  
Two birds with the same meaning  
For the pain breathed by all those gods.  
Now, come to me, losness' angel!  
What you see...?  
Once the night has come, our foreheads blessed  
will be...  
By the moon!

*Gone*

By Gherghel Ioana, X E

As I am walking up  
I'm feeling things  
I was scared to feel before  
This time I've got my eyes wide open  
Won't ruin things, no more.

I can pretend I don't see you  
I can pretend I don't know you  
I can lie that nothing was right  
But I know if I looked in your eyes  
I'd break down.

I promise to tell you my secrets  
All those you want to hear  
Even the ones I've kept inside  
I'll give you all the reasons-  
Got sick of all this insincere.

I was accused of losing my mind  
But I swear I was just fine  
I didn't realize back then  
We will have got this far  
I didn't realize back then  
You would fade from my life.



*The shadow of a dream*

By Vele Corina, X E

I can feel you everywhere,  
Through windows and through walls,  
Between two drops of water  
When rain comes and then it goes.  
I can smell, and feel, and see  
But there's no one there,  
No one who's meant to be  
And everywhere I'm looking by,  
Nothing, no more "you and I".  
Dreams are telling stories,

Words are telling lies,  
Simplicity of feelings  
Read between the lines.  
I guess it's not just me

I'm not the only one  
Who sleeps and wakes up someday,  
A stranger in the sky.



*Walking*

By Vele Corina, X E

Walking...

In a bored and absent walk,  
Make, instead of puzzle games,  
Just chaotic plays of thoughts.  
Are we trying to be more?  
More than our Creator wanted?  
And if it's truly so,  
Why don't we get to remark it?  
You just have to stop and say:  
This is all I've ever wanted?  
To run along an abrupt way  
Instead of living, being romantic.  
There's no point in looking for  
Something that has not existed  
Something that is not your goal

Something you can live without it.  
Live your life and think like so:  
It's your movie, it's fantastic  
Characters are to be more  
Not just you, in a world of plastic.

*Happiness*

By Vele Corina, X E

Asking myself one day  
What happiness does mean  
I started to realise  
It is more than just a dream.  
It is not an empty ideal

Impossible to achieve  
It is right in front of you,  
Only thing is to believe.  
You wake up every morning  
And see the sky again  
With all amazing beauties  
What have you done for them?  
Or having everyday  
The honour to be surrounded  
By people near by  
You won't die empty-hearted.  
Just the reason you're alive  
It's source of happiness  
And living like who you are  
Is the supreme key to this.  
So being happy means  
To find the joy in sadness  
The rain in a sea of desert  
Knowing that you are blessed.  
And do never forget  
No matter they are few,  
There is somebody there  
Who's saying "I love you".

### *We are humans!*

By Lucaci Ștefania, X E

We are all humans!  
We're not made from stones,  
We feel the pain.  
We feel alone..  
We are all humans!  
We need love.  
We could fall,  
But we raise up.  
We are all humans!  
We feel the time wich pass  
And we cry when we see  
That we remain in past..  
We are all humans  
And we will be

Until our souls  
Will be free.



### *Love..*

By Lucaci Ștefania, X E

Love..love..What means love?  
Love..love..How can it be?  
Is that piece of heart  
Who doesn't stop to beat?  
Is that tear falling again  
That make you feel complete?  
Is that kiss wich seems so sweet?  
Is that thing wich all people want?  
Is that smile who let your theet to shine?  
The life without Her-  
The goddness of happiness-  
Will be just a wisper  
Lost in the wind.

### *Pure and simple*

By Lucaci Ștefania, X E

I look around me and I don't know what I'm  
looking for,  
Cause all I see are lies wallows in angels'  
waterfalls.  
People's faces are always smiling, giving  
hugs, being your „friends”,  
But if we could read their minds... I can't  
understand!  
Now the sky is blue, the sun is up,  
But just in a second it goes back.  
Today is green, tomorrow is blue,  
Now you're my friend, next you're my foe.  
Can't we be just friends?  
Can't we accept each other?  
Can't we find the end  
Of this sorrowful problem?  
We could be like a child.  
Nobody hates children!



Because they are pure and simple,  
Because they are smiling with their eyes,  
And the eyes are the mirror of the soul;  
Because they love to live  
Because they love to love...  
Every day is sun for them,  
Their life is pink - tomorrow like today.  
We should borrow all things from them.  
But the most important we should all have -  
Because it is „spring” with magic water  
And if we drink from that spring  
The world will become heaven -  
Is that source of magic,  
The only one... love...  
Learning to love is learning to live,  
Learning to love is learning to smile,  
Learning to love, you learn to be  
Pure and simple like a child.

### *The Bastion of Humankind*

By Raul Cionca, XI A

Explore a world full of surprises  
Feel the blistering heat which rises  
A world filled with things that'll blow your mind  
With people so awesomely nice, so blissfully  
kind,  
People of South Africa, the Bastion of  
Humankind.

Firstly, let's start with their drinks and foods,  
You'll never get tastier goods.  
They pretty much invented the grill, called  
braai,  
Which I think is simply a mouthful of joy.  
Their dishes always include meat  
So it's a delight to eat.  
They may be a vegan's nightmare  
But frankly you shouldn't really care.  
Speaking of not caring while you dine,  
Let's not forget about their legendary wine,

With its graceful taste,  
simply sublime!

But all this now hastily

covered

I presume you've already wandered  
"What is all that food for?"  
South Africans enjoy nothing more  
Than cricket, rugby and the almighty soccer,  
Which is not really that big of a shocker,  
Since they've hosted the 2010 World Cup.  
You guys get a big thumbs-up!

The blessed lands of Africa of South  
Boast a great deal of riches to talk about  
From vanadium to precious gold  
To tons of platinum and diamond sold!  
Leaders in the diamond industry?  
That's where you would want to be.

And surely these are interesting and all,  
But linguistics is my diamond, my call.  
Such a diverse and thriving culture  
Is bound to have amazing words to nurture.  
Eleven national languages?! That is insane,  
That's more than any other country could claim.  
I believe it's a curious aspect, a wonder  
Others might think it's rather a burden,  
To have to learn their names, and rules.

But from all these different languages so far,  
I believe English is the greatest of them all.  
Not because of its expansive nature,  
Or the number of speakers in each culture,  
The reason is how elegant it is,  
How it unites us, or the swift ease  
Of talking, of trying to communicate  
In every country, every state,  
It truly represents my own bastion.  
And, by saying this, I rest my case  
I hope I've put English a nice face.

A Drawing by Raluca Fărcaș, IX A





## *The Graduates' Corner*

A Message from Andreea Buruian, Laura Dochița, Cristina Ionescu, XII A, Generation of 2012



Hi,

We are Andreea, Cristina and Laura. Like you we used to learn at “Gheorghe Sincai” National Collage. Now we are students in Cluj at University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Iuliu Hatieganu” and Babes Bolyai University. We **taught** of writing this article to give you some pieces of advice about student life.

Firstly, it is very important to be sure of what you really want to become. You should not let anybody influence your decision and don't choose to do something just because it is said to be 'in trend'. Secondly, make sure you are informed about the specialization you have chosen: you can visit the University, participate at classes, talk with students or teachers (even if sometimes teachers seem to be distant you will see that they actually are open-minded and willing to answer all your questions), read flyers and visit official sites.

Once your university life begins find more information about student organizations and volunteering programs and make sure you are an active student. After you blend in, try to find balance between studying and your extracurricular activities. Even if there are a lot of temptations you should take advantage of the fact that you have the chance to learn and try not to skip classes. In this way your own notes will help you to prepare better for exams. Who knows, maybe your feedback will make teachers want to involve you in different projects. A useful tip could be not to let rumours about teachers influence your opinion about them, because there are conflicting views about anybody.

Because competition in university is bigger than in high-school, you should not be discouraged if you feel you are not as good as others because it takes time to find your own style of studying. It is important not to lose your motivation. By volunteering, going out with your friends, visiting new places and meeting new people who are as **ambitions** as you are, you will be able to keep a positive attitude. This way you will keep your motivation to do whatever you want to.

Even if the transition from high-school to college is an important and difficult step in **our** lives, you should enjoy every moment and keep in mind the reason for which you are here: to become the best in your profession.

Have fun and study hard!

Hugs and kisses,

Andreea Buruian, Laura Dochița și Cristina Ionescu.

P.S. Be proud that you have studied at “Gheorghe Sincai” and don't forget all those wonderful teachers who shared their knowledge with you. We can say that we really miss them.



“The teenager inside of us is the traveler, the dreamer, the reader, the party animal, the friend, the curious one, the active one, the silly one. The teenager part of us lets us be who we are, lets us be truly alive.” (Rinja Daiana, XI E)

*“Adolescence is the age of parties, love drama, gossip, problems, crushes and mistakes. It hits you like a tornado and you wake up questioning yourself, what you should do to look like one of those models you saw in a magazine or why that boy you met last Saturday in the club does not answer your text message. That must be the end of your world, right?”*  
(Ofim Adriana, XI E)

“I believe somewhere in between the tears and the anger that we can all enjoy our time as ‘young adults.” (Ciociu Ariana, XI E)

“This is the period of life when we change and we want to change the world too, we want to make it better. [...] sometimes we live in our own world where the problems of the grown-ups do not exist.” (Ulici Diana, XI E)

*“God gave us so little time to be teenagers because he didn't want us to unlock the great Universal secrets. We were given only a few years to live life at its finest, only a few years to truly be aware of every little feeling we go through, making it more and more acute.”* (Rinja Daiana, XI E)

“WHEN YOU ARE AN ADOLESCENT YOU SPEND MOST OF YOUR TIME WITH YOUR FRIEND AND YOUR FAMILY LOOKS LIKE AN ENEMY. YOUR MOTHER WANTS YOUR ROOMS ALWAYS CLEAN, YOUR FATHER DOESN'T LIKE YOUR NEW BOYFRIEND, YOUR SCHOOL MARKS AREN'T AS GOOD AS THEY USED TO BE, YOU CAN'T COME HOME AT A DECENT HOUR, AND STUFF LIKE THAT...”  
(IUGA ANCA, XI E)

*Problems start from small envies on your friend's new dress, on her perfect body or superficial things. You keep thinking that you didn't have the luck she had and sometimes you get in small depressions which are characteristic for this period, because teenagers use to dramatize everything that happened in their lives.* (Conea Andrada, XI E)